March 8, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, we would like to thank you for your presence in Louisiana last August to commemorate Hurricane Katrina. Rebuilding our environment and economies in the aftermath of that disaster, and then following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, has certainly been a team effort among federal, state, and local governments – as well as business, foundation and NGO partners. We have made much progress together. The undersigned organizations, businesses and individuals represent a wide range of interests in Louisiana’s recovery and long-term resiliency.

Unfortunately, despite the progress we have made since the 2005 hurricanes and the 2010 oil spill, Louisiana is still facing the largest land loss crisis in North America. This accelerated land loss has far-reaching implications due to its impacts on the Mississippi River navigation system, our nation’s largest port system, seafood industries, as well as oil and gas production and petrochemical manufacturing. The restoration of coastal Louisiana’s wetlands is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. At stake is not only habitat for millions of migratory birds, waterfowl and other wildlife, but the very survival of New Orleans, other coastal communities and industries dependent on Louisiana’s coast. In response, the State of Louisiana has a world-class, science-based Coastal Master Plan to stem that loss for the benefit of the entire region and nation.

To date, the State of Louisiana has responsibly and thoughtfully applied various grant and disaster response funding to create an integrated coastal program that ties ecosystem restoration and structural and nonstructural protection together. That approach is embodied in the Coastal Master Plan. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) will soon provide the only consistent source of federal funds to continue its implementation. The funds are well-protected for this intended purpose and have been a cornerstone for coastal planning since passage of GOMESA. In 2006,
Louisiana voters constitutionally dedicated this funding stream to the State’s Coastal Trust Fund, which supports implementation of the Coastal Master Plan.

You have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to Louisiana’s ongoing recovery and its importance to the nation. We believe your proposal to redistribute GOMESA dollars is inconsistent with that very worthy commitment, and we were disappointed to see it again as a part of the budget discussion this year. We respectfully request that you reconsider that approach as you work with us and our communities to build the kind of long term resilience we can achieve.

Again, many thanks for all you have done for Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region. We look forward to more progress over the next year. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Cochran, Director, Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, at scochran@edf.org or (202) 255-1198.

Sincerely,

Adams and Reese, LLP
Adventure Design, LLC
Alan Stie Promotions
Alan Stie School of Turkey Calling
America’s WETLAND Foundation
American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana
American Institute of Architects Louisiana
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
Ansardi Financial Services
Applied Coastal Research and Engineering, Inc.
Ascension Parish
Ashe Studios
Ashley Barrios State Farm
Assumption Parish Police Jury
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, & Berkowitz, P.C.
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Bayou Civic Club
Bayou Grace Community Services
Bayou Industrial Group
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
Bayou Lafourche Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District
Belle Chasse Lions Club
BEM Systems, Inc.
Besh Restaurant Group
BFA Environmental Consultants
Big O Charters, LLC
Big River Coalition
Biohabitats, Inc.
Biological Surveys, Inc.
Black Bear Conservation Coalition
Blue Heron Communications
Boggy River Ranch Guide Services
Bourgeois Law, LLC
British Field Trial Society of America
Brogden Farms
Business Council of New Orleans and the Greater River Region
Byewood Press
Cabela’s Deer Gear
Cabela’s Fisherman’s Handbook
Cabela’s SportingDog Adventures Television Show
Cajun Boy Airboats
Cajun Catch Seafood
Cajun Fishing Adventures
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
CallingDucks.com
Cameron Parish
Camp Dularge, LLC
Canal Barge
CarecoTV, LLC
Catch Dat! Charters
Category 5 Outdoors
Center for Planning Excellence
Chaffe and Associates
Channel Shipyard Companies
Chris Moran’s Marina, LLC
Christian Water Fowlers Association
Cimarron Valley Guide Service
City of Covington
City of Mandeville
City of New Orleans
City of Slidell
Classic Taxidermy
Coalition for Coastal Resilience and the Economy (CCRE)
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Coast Builders Coalition
Coastal Apparel
Coastal Environments, Inc.
Common Ground Relief Wetlands, LLC
Common Ground Relief, Inc.
Comrade Sporting Club
ConservAmerica
Conservation Force
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Creative Cajun Cooking
Crescent Transportation Service, Inc.
Dan Small Outdoors, LLC
Dan Small Outdoors Radio
Dana Brown & Associates, Inc.
Davenport Construction
Davenport Solutions
Decoy Outdoors Clothing
Delacroix Corporation
Delta Coast Consultants
Delta Crew Boat Company
Dickie Brennan & Company
Diez Products & Diez Signs, LLC
Double D Guide Service
Dr. Fitz Consulting
Drake Waterfowl
Dredging Contractors of America
Duck Commander
Duplantis Design Group
eDIGImag eMagazine Publisher
Elite Nutrition
Emergent Method
Enertgy
Environmental Defense Fund
Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry
Fins to Feathers
Fishing & Hunting Texas
Fishing for Life
Fowl Play Game Calls
FowlNation.com
Friends of New Orleans
Full Throttle Hog Dogs
Gator Trax Boats
Global Green USA
Gordie’s Wildlife
Gorman Brothers
Gotta Go Charters
Grand Ridge Golf
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., LLC
Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Greater New Orleans Council of the Navy League of the United States
Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO Inc.)
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
Grey Wolf Fly Shop
Groundwork New Orleans
Gulf Coast Chapter British Field Trial Society
Gulf Coast Waterfowl Festival
Gulf Economic Survival Team
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Gulf Restoration Network
GulfRim Navigation
Gun Talk Radio
Gun Talk TV
Guns and Gear TV
Guy Harvey Magazine
Guy Harvey Magazine’s On-line Fisherman
Hardcore Waterfowler
Haydel’s Game Calls Inc.
HeadHunters NW
Hoffman Game Birds
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
HuntingLife.com
Iberia Parish
Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau
IBERIABANK
In-Fisherman Magazine
Intera
Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson Parish
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
Jim Klug Outdoor Photography
Jim Reynolds Outdoors Advertising
Jim Reynolds Outdoors, LLC
JimReynoldsOutdoors.com
Joule Energy
Kelly Outdoors Radio
Kelly's Kall’s
LA 1 Coalition
Lafourche Chamber of Commerce
Lafourche Parish
Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Administrator
Lafourche Parish Water District No. 1
Laitram, LLC
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Land Trust for Louisiana
Larry R. Richardson & Associates
Leadership Lafourche
Leadership Terrebonne
LeDez Industries
Levees.org
LifeCity, LLC
Limitless Vistas, Inc.
Livingston Parish
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
Louisiana B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Louisiana Bankers Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Louisiana Fly Fishing Charters
Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours
Louisiana Marsh Guide Service
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
Louisiana Municipal Association
Louisiana Oystermen Association
Louisiana Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE)
Louisiana Property Acquisition Co., LLC
Louisiana REALTORS  
Louisiana Restaurant Association  
Louisiana Water Network  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development  
Lowlander Center  
Lucky Dog Lanyards  
Marsh Rat Guide Service  
MarshLand Outdoors  
Martin Ecosystems  
Maxxed Out Guide Service  
Michael Furtman Outdoor Photography  
MidSouth Tackle and Hunting Show  
Missouri Valley Waterfowlers Association  
Montgomery Productions  
Morganza Action Coalition  
National Audubon Society  
Near and Far Photography  
NET500.CG Communications  
NetWork Voluntours  
New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club  
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce  
New Orleans Fish House  
New Orleans Iron Works  
New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation  
Nicholls State University Student Government Association  
NOLA Boat Rentals  
NOLA Holdings, LLC  
NOLA Vibe  
North Lafourche Levee District  
O’fieldstream Outdoor Journal  
Oklahoma Tackle and Hunting Show  
One Acadiana  
OOAK Digital Gallery  
ORA Estuaries  
Orleans Audubon Society  
Oxfam America  
Peacekeeper Charters  
Pitts & Matte, a Corporation of Certified Public Accountants  
Pleisure Dragline & Dredging  
Plantation Tire and Car Care  
Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry  
Plaquemines Parish  
Plaquemines Parish Office of Tourism and Economic Development  
Port of South Louisiana  
Port Sulphur Ace Hardware  
Postlethwaite & Netterville  
Print All Inc.  
Progressive Coastal Consultants  
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group, LLC  
Recycled Fish  
Red Fish Grill  
Reel Shot Guide Service  
Reel Shot TV  
Restore or Retreat  
Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition  
River Region Chamber of Commerce  
Rocky Mountain Television Productions, LLC  
Rotary Club of Metairie  
Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC  
RuggedLiving.net  
Salter’s Jiggin’ Poles  
Scale Damage Bowfishing  
Shell Shocked Outdoors  
Shooters of Faith  
Sierra Club Delta Chapter  
Slow Food New Orleans  
Soggy Acres Retrievers  
South Central Industrial Association  
South Lafourche Levee District  
South Louisiana Bank  
South Louisiana Economic Council  
South Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East  
South Plaquemines Rotary Club  
Southern Chaos  
SouthWings, Inc.  
Specialty Outdoor Services, Inc.  
Spirit of the Outdoors Radio Show  
Sportsmanshub.com  
Spot On Fishing Charters  
St. Bernard Parish  
St. Bernard Parish Chamber of Commerce  
St. Bernard Parish Economic Development Foundation  
St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission  
St. Charles Parish  
St. James Parish  
St. John the Baptist Parish  
St. Martin Parish  
St. Mary Chamber of Commerce  
St. Mary Industrial Group  
St. Mary Parish  
St. Mary Parish Levee District  
St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation  
St. Tammany Parish  
St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission  
Stirling Properties  
Sure Shot Game Calls  
Tagging Memories  
Tangipahoa Parish  
Team Real Duck  
Ted M. Falgout & Associates, Consultants  
Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District  
Terrebonne Parish  
Terrebonne Readiness & Assistance Coalition  
Texas Waterfowl Association  
The Activist Angler  
The Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation  
The Chamber Southwest Louisiana  
The National Wildlife Federation  
The Outdoor Guide Magazine  
The Outdoor Kitchen Show  
The TECHIE Project  
The Urban Conservancy
The Vindez Corporation
Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce
Tierra Resources, LLC
Tom Broom Consulting
Toups’ Meatery
Town of Grand Isle
Town of Jean Lafitte
Traditions Media, LLC
Trail Escapes, LLC
Tru Recoil
Turner House Productions
U.S. Angling Association
Uncorked New Orleans
United States Freshwater Fishing Federation
USA Fly Fishing Team
USA Ice Fishing Team
USA Junior Fly Fishing Team

Venice Charters Unlimited
Vermilion Parish Police Jury
Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
Vince Diez Properties
Waggonner & Ball
Wayfarer Environmental Technologies, LLC
Weeks Marine, Inc.
Wetland Tours, LLC
Wetlands Media, LLC
Whitetail Diaries
Wilco Marsh Buggies & Draglines, Inc.
Wild Horse Creek Hunters & Anglers
Women of the Storm
Woody’s Custom Rod Company
World Discovery Primos, LLC
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center

cc: Shaun Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget